FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MAY 1986

Israel

Thatcher Visit — Commenting on the results of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 24-27 May visit to Israel, IDF radio said the major achievement is her consent to serve as a link between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Arab leaders, notably Jordanian King Husayn. Thatcher stated in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television that her talks with Peres were "excellent and very constructive," noting that their discussions were part of a continuous process of seeking negotiations on the Middle East problem and that she will meet with King Husayn when he visits London in 3 weeks time.

Thatcher also met with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who gave an "unequivocal and negative" reply to her proposal for free local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, IDF radio reported, citing Rabin's statement that it would be "very strange" if the first free mayoral elections in the Arab world were held in the territories. In a banquet speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Thatcher urged Israel to do more to help the Palestinians play a greater role in managing their own affairs, stressing that the current situation in the occupied territories "can only be temporary" and that "practical steps" could be taken now as a prelude to an eventual settlement. Before concluding her visit, Thatcher also met with Palestinian dignitaries from the West Bank and Gaza who gave her a petition urging Britain to talk with the PLO, the radio reported. However, Thatcher stated at a news conference broadcast by the radio before her departure that the PLO's failure to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism makes it necessary to find "other Palestinian representatives who truly represent the Palestinian people." "We must consider an alternative" to the PLO, she said, adding that negotiations between King Husayn and Israel are impossible unless the latter is accompanied by people who are accepted as representing the Palestinian people. As for her forthcoming talks with Husayn, Thatcher said "we will have a lot to talk about" as a result of her visit to Israel.

Among the Arab commentaries criticizing Thatcher's visit, Damascus radio's Palestine broadcast urged Palestinians to refuse to meet with her, warning that those who do so will be viewed as "agents" and will only have themselves to blame when the Palestinian revolution carries out "the people's sentences" against them. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, however, stressed that the Palestinians meeting Thatcher would reaffirm their support for the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative. A PLO military spokesman cited by the radio claimed that a PLO combat group was responsible for planting three bombs which exploded in the Tel Aviv area 25 May. IDF radio confirmed that explosions took place in Ashqelon and Kefar Sava, noting that one person was slightly injured.

'Senior Official' Affair — The Inner Cabinet's failure to suspend a senior official who is under investigation for serious crimes has caused a "Constitutional crisis," *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported 26 May. The official in question is Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom, according to a U.S. television report cited by Jerusalem radio, which said the attorney general has concluded that Shalom and other Shin Bet officials should be charged with covering up the truth during investigations into the death of two terrorists who died in the custody of security forces 2 years ago. However, the Inner Cabinet has decided that launching an investigation into the affair will cause security damage, the radio subsequently disclosed, and Shalom is continuing in office for the time being.

Tabah Dispute — Israel has rejected a U.S. request to accept Egypt's formulation of the question to be presented to arbitrators on the Tabah issue, Jerusalem radio announced 25 May. Nevertheless, Egyptian sources cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* stated that an end to the deadlock is "very close," indicating that Egypt has moved toward accepting one of the U.S. compromise proposals.

Syrian, Jordanian Diplomacy

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Greece 26 May at the start of an "official and cordial visit" aimed at promoting bilateral relations, Damascus radio reported, noting that the Syrian leader was "warmly welcomed" by Greek leaders. At a banquet speech broadcast by Damascus television, Al-Asad told his hosts that the U.S. "aggression" against Libya is a "serious phenomenon," adding that the United States and Israel will be "losing their senses" if they believe such methods will curb terrorism. Athens radio said Al-Asad will remain in Greece until 30 May and will discuss bilateral and international issues in talks with the president and prime minister.

In an earlier development, President al-Asad received Jordan's King Husayn in Damascus 24 May for talks on Mideast developments, according to Damascus radio. Amman radio said the Syrian and Jordanian leaders discussed the current Arab situation and bilateral relations, while an "informed source" cited by Radio Monte Carlo's Damascus correspondent described the meeting as "extremely important." After returning to Amman, King Husayn visited Baghdad 26 May for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Amman radio noted. Radio Monte Carlo reports from Amman viewed Husayn's talks with Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn as part of an attempt to ease Syrian-Iraqi tension, and QNA subsequently cited a Kuwaiti press report that King Husayn succeeded in persuading the Syrian and Iraqi presidents to agree to hold a summit meeting in Amman after 'Id al-Fitr. In Israel, "very reliable sources" cited by *THE JERUSALEM POST* contended that King Husayn's visit to Damascus was aimed at further isolating PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, asserting that Husayn's mediation between Syria and Iraq is intended to cut Iraqi support for 'Arafat.

As for Syrian-PLO relations, Egypt's *AL-AHRAM* stated that the Palestinian leadership possesses "full details" of a Syrian plot to assassinate 'Arafat, MENA reported.

In a separate development, Moscow radio announced that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will begin a working visit to the Soviet Union 27 May. Meanwhile, a Soviet official told KUNA that the United States will face "very grave consequences" if it or Israel strikes at Syria, warning that the Soviet Union will stand by Syria militarily and politically in the event of a U.S. or Israeli attack.

Libya

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev held talks with Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud in the Kremlin 27 May, TASS reported, noting that Jallud arrived in Moscow the previous day on a working visit. "Well-informed" Arab diplomatic sources cited by the Abu Dhabi paper *AL-ITTIHAD* claimed that Jallud's visit may result in an agreement on Libya's membership in the Warsaw Pact. In another report, "diplomatic sources" cited by the paper asserted that Jallud will sign a "huge" arms deal while in Moscow in response to the U.S. "aggression" against Libya, according to QNA. The paper disclosed that talks on such a deal took place during Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's last visit to Moscow, but were later discontinued.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that Jallud and the head of Libyan intelligence are heading an operation collecting intelligence information "in preparation for attacks" on Israeli and U.S. targets in Europe.

Iran-Iraq War

Fighting in Hajj 'Umran, Mehran — An Iranian military report cited by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian troops advanced beyond Hajj 'Umran 15 km inside northern Iraq 22-23 May, killing or wounding over 800 Iraqis and downing two helicopters. On the other hand, an Iraqi communique asserted that Iraq's V Army Corps crushed an Iranian attack in the same sector 23 May. The communique also said that "confirmed" Iranian losses from the Iraqi thrust in the Mehran sector had reached 2,500 dead. Iraqi commanders cited by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi forces have occupied 290 sq km in the area and that they control Mehran and surrounding villages and mountains. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i acknowledged in a Friday sermon reported by Tehran radio that the Iraqis had managed to "advance a few steps and capture the Mehran plain," but he rejected any notion of exchanging Mehran for Al-Faw, saying this is "most laughable" as there is "no comparison between the strategic Al-Faw and the little town of Mehran."

Air Attacks — An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses announced that Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 25 May and hit a large maritime target in the Gulf late the previous night. An oil-laden Cypriot-registered tanker was hit and set on fire in the Iraqi attacks, according to a salvage company spokesman cited by AFP. Other Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses reported Iraqi raids on oil pumping stations 24 May and on Iranian military camps 26 May, acknowledging the loss of one Iraqi plane over Iran 26 May due to "technical reasons."

Iranian planes also raided Iraqi targets, according to military reports by Tehran radio and IRNA, which announced raids on military targets in Rawanduz 23 and 25 May, an attack on an Iraqi command center near Al-Kumayt 26 May, and raids on Iraqi power stations in Darband-i Khan and the Dukan area 25 and 27 May. IRNA claimed that Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs in raids on the Mehran area.

Jordan

The opposition Jordanian National Movement issued a statement in Beirut accusing the Jordanian secret police of arresting and torturing soldiers who refused to carry out orders "to kill the sons of our people," AFP reported. The statement linked the purge with the recent unrest at Yarmuk University.

Egypt

The Supreme State Security Court sentenced 34 persons to jail terms of 1-3 years on charges relating to their involvement in a communist organization, MENA revealed 24 May. Charges that the defendants had formed a communist party were not proven, the court noted, but the defendants were punished in light of "verified evidence" that they were in possession of materials that would "incite hostility" to the regime.

Lebanon

Beirut Fighting — Amal and Palestinian gunmen continued fighting in Beirut 23-26 May, while intermittent artillery exchanges across the Muslim-Christian contact lines caused further casualties, according to reports by Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Beirut radio said a 26 May bomb explosion in the Al-Dawrah area killed two people and injured five. Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Samir Ja'ja' held Syrian intelligence responsible for the explosions in Christian areas and accused Syrian Vice President Khaddam of encouraging the escalation of violence, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Any attempt to find a political solution must begin with the removal of Syrian military and intelligence forces from Lebanon, Ja'ja' asserted.

As for the south, Beirut radio asserted that Israeli artillery shelled a village in the Bint Jubayl district 25 May, killing one man and injuring four other people. The Israeli-backed army of southern Lebanon had clashed with "terrorists" in the area the previous day, according to Jerusalem radio.

Hostages — Regarding the fate of U.S. and other foreign hostages in Lebanon, an anonymous caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad told the Voice of Lebanon that his organization will execute all the Americans, four French and one British hostage 27 May.

PLO in Tunisia

The PLO has informed Tunisia of the PLO's decision to end its military presence in Tunisia, 'Arafat stated in an interview with

Dubayy's *AL-BAYAN* cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio 23 May. However, the PLO still maintains its political and administrative presence in Tunis, the PLO leader noted.

Gulf Affairs

Qatar-Bahrain Dispute — According to "well-informed sources" in Manama cited by the Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ* 26 May, the Bahraini and Qatari amirs have pledged to refrain from resorting to force as long as attempts are made to resolve the two countries' dispute. The sources revealed that Qatar will withdraw all of its forces from Fasht al-Dibal Island while the Bahraini presence on Hawar Islands will revert to the level prior to the eruption of the dispute.

A statement issued by the GCC Secretariat 25 May announced that the Supervisory and Monitoring Commission established to oversee the implementation of the agreement between the two sides commenced its work the same day. A 24 May WAKH report citing Abu Dhabi press reports said Qatar ended the "restriction" imposed on Fasht al-Dibal.

Somali President Hurt in Accident

Mogadishu radio cited a report 26 May that described President Muhammad Siad Barre's condition as "very good" following his involvement in a traffic accident 23 May outside Mogadishu. An earlier radio report revealed that Barre was transferred 24 May to a hospital in Saudi Arabia for "further medical investigation." Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Halgan termed the situation in the capital as "very tense" following the accident, and asserted that extra troops have been sent into the city. The radio also claimed that "many" people were killed or wounded at the scene of Barre's accident when his security officers opened fire on the bus that had collided with the car in which the president was riding.

OPEC Affairs

Jeddah radio reported the conclusion of the 3-day meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Committee in charge of negotiating with non-OPEC oil producing nations in Al-Ta'if 25 May. The radio cited Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani's assertion that a "complete understanding" was achieved in general, and noted that the resolutions of the meeting would be forwarded to the next OPEC conference.

DRA-Pakistan

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed satisfaction over the results thus far achieved in the indirect talks with Afghanistan in Geneva, Karachi radio reported. Khan disclosed that agreement was reached on some "important principles," but he noted that some "major" issues, including the timeframe of Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, still have to be negotiated. The UN secretary general's personal envoy to the talks, Diego Cordovez, noted "substantial progress" during the seventh round of indirect talks which concluded 23 May, and revealed that the two sides discussed the issue of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan for the first time, according to the radio.

In other developments, the radio noted that Pakistan lodged a "strong" protest with Afghanistan over further air and artillery attacks in border areas.

As for the DRA internal situation in the wake of Najibullah's accession to the post of PDPA general secretary, IRNA cited reports that supporters of Najibullah and DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium President Babrak Karmal clashed "last week" in Kabul following the arrests of PDPA officials Mahmud Barialay and Anahita Ratebzad. In other developments, a news conference in Kabul under BAKHTAR auspices cited by Moscow radio 24 May claimed that U.S. "Stinger" missiles already have been delivered to the Afghan "counterrevolutionary" camps in Pakistan according to DRA Aviation Minister Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban.

Regarding the political situation in Pakistan, Karachi radio announced that the National Assembly speaker was ousted from his post after losing a no-confidence vote 26 May by a wide margin.

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Najibullah Addresses Elders of Lowgar Province

LD250613 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR — The state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, is firmly determined to ensure overall peace and security and the normalisation of the situation in the country.

This was stated by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, addressing the elders and representatives of the working people of Lowgar Province, east of the country, receiving them here today.

We have employed, general secretary of the PDPA CC emphasized, all the political means in international arena in order to get the situation around Afghanistan solved through political talks. We look ahead with good prospect and are hopeful that aggression and intervention into the internal affairs of the country to be totally ended as a result of the talks and our countrymen living abroad to return to their homeland, said Comrade Najibollah.

The party and state of the DRA, he added, will provide all the facilities for ensuring genuine equality to the tribes and nationalities enabling all of them to take equal participation in all socio-economic and political sphere.

In view of such facilities, general secretary of the PDPA CC called upon the people of Lowgar to take an active part for the development of the national economy and the building of a prosperous Afghanistan.

A number of representatives including (Nur Ahmad Stanakzai), (Haji Muhammed Asef Khesrawi) and (Ghulam Rabani), on behalf of their a areas, assured comrade Naibullah of their all out contribution for the realization of the lofty objectives of the revolution.

Karmal Addresses DYOA Anniversary Function

LD270609 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Kabul, May 25, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, member of Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA conferred upon the vanguard youths of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan (DYOA) the state awards and medals endorsed by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the DYOA, for appreciating their works and struggles.

Addressing the attendees of the function held on the occasion, Babrak Karmal attracted the attention of the youths to the imperative responsibilities for the construction of the new society. He wished them successes and great honours on the path of building the country and ensuring the interests of the working people of the country.

Farid Muzdak, first secretary of the DYOA representing the DYOA assured the PDPA and state of the DRA and Babrak Karmal in person that they would struggle till the last breath of their lives for the implementation of the documents and decisions of the PDPA.

7th Round Geneva Talks With Pakistan End

LD241715 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Another stage of the seventh round of talks between the DRA and Pakistan, conducted through Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general, ended yesterday at Geneva's Palais Des Nations.

The head of the Afghan delegation to the talks was Shah Muhammad Dost, the DRA foreign affairs minister and the head of the Pakistan delegation was Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistan's foreign minister.

The talks will be resumed in Geneva on 30 July.

Dost Returns From Talks

LD261800 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Muhammad Dost, who visited Geneva as head of a DRA delegation to hold talks with Pakistan, returned home today.

Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar, advisors and deputy ministers of foreign affairs, and the Soviet minister-counciller in Kabul, Petrov, welcomed the delegation at Kabul international airport.

AFP Reports 25 May Cabinet Reshuffle

BK250855 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Dhaka, May 25 (AFP) — Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad appointed 17 ministers to his cabinet Sunday, the Presidential Palace said. Five state ministers and three deputy ministers were also sworn in Sunday at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace.

All but one of the new ministers hold seats in Parliament from the pro-government Jatiya Party, the palace said. Most of the ministers who took office Sunday were previous cabinet members who resigned on March 24 to contest the May 7 parliamentary election.

Mr. Ershad's cabinet had been cut to eight members after 19 ministers resigned to run in parliamentary races.

Presidential Palace sources said the full list of ministers and their portfolios would be released shortly.

Dhaka Lists New Cabinet

BK251638 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Seventeen [as heard] ministers, five ministers of state, and three deputy ministers were sworn in in Dhaka today. The oath of office was administered by President Ershad at a simple ceremony at Banga Bhavan this afternoon. The ministers and their portfolios are:

—**Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed**, DCMLA [deputy chief martial law administrator] and chief of naval staff: Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Inland Water Transport;
—**Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud**, DCMLA and chief of air staff: Ministry of Industries;
—**Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury**: post and telecommunications;
—**Mr Moudud Ahmed**: communications;
—**Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam**: law and justice;
—**Major General Abdul Mannan Siddiqui**: relief and rehabilitation;
—**Retired Major General M. Shamsul Haq**: planning;
—**Retired Major General Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury**: food;
—**Major General M.A. Munim**: agriculture;
—**Major General Mahmudul Hasan**: home affairs;
—**Retired Air Vice Marshal K.M. Aminul Islam**: local government, rural development, and cooperative;
—**Kazi Zafar Ahmed**: commerce;
—**Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury**: religious affairs;
—**Dr M.A. Matin**: education;
—**Mr M. Korban Ali**: labor and manpower;
—**Shah Moazzam Hussain**: information;
—**Mr M.A. Sattar**: jute and textiles;
—**Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud**: irrigation, water development, and flood control;
—**Mr Sirajul Hussain Khan**: fishery and livestock;
—**Mrs Rabia Bhuiya**: social welfare and women's affairs;
—**Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury**: youth and sports;
—**Mr Anwar Hussain**: energy and mineral resources;
—**Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury**: foreign affairs;
—**Mr Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury**: works;
—**Mr A.K. Moyeedul Islam**: land administration and land reforms.

The ministers of state and their portfolios are:

—**Mr. Shafiqul Gani Swapan**: civil aviation and tourism division of the Ministry of Defense;
—**Mr Sunil Gupta**: communications;
—**Retired Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Imam**: energy and mineral resources;
—**Mr Anwar Zahid**: information;
—**Mr Mustafa Jamal Haidar**: local government, rural development, and cooperatives.

The deputy ministers and their portfolios are:

—**Sheikh Shahidul Islam**: youth and sports;
—**Mr Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu**: education; and
—**Mr Misbahuddin Ahmed Bablu**: industries.

The president has also appointed Mr T.I.M. Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury as his adviser. Mr Chowdhury will enjoy the status and privileges of a cabinet minister and will be in charge of O and M [expansion unknown] regulations and training wing of the Ministry of Establishment.

Government Declares Amnesty for Chittagong Rebels

BK241602 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] The government has again declared a general amnesty for the remaining misguided people of the Chittagong hill tracts to allow them to return to their normal life. The amnesty will be in force from tomorrow to the 25th of next month. In a handout issued in Dhaka today, it was stated that already a large number of misguided people are willing to start their normal life after being impressed by the honorable rehabilitation of the misguided people and largescale development work of the Chittagong hill tracts. The government has expressed the hope that the remaining misguided people will respond to the opportunity of general amnesty and assist the development of the Chittagong hill tracts.

Pakistani Intruders Killed by Border Forces

BK250852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Five Pakistani nationals were killed in two separate encounters with Border Security Force [BSF] jawans [soldiers] in Anupgarh sector of Rajasthan early this morning. According to a BSF spokesman, the Pakistani intruders were killed while trying to sneak into the India territory. When challenged by the BSF patrol, the Pakistanis fired at them. The BSF jawans returned the fire and killed them.

Government Questions Sri Lankan Government Tactics

BK231256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpt] India has told Sri Lanka that it would have to consider whether to continue its good offices in resolving the ethnic problem if the island's government continued with the current military offensive in the northern peninsula. This was conveyed by the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, when he called on President Jayewardene in Colombo yesterday. President Jayewardene is understood to have told Mr Dixit that his government is still interested in resolving the problem peacefully. He wanted India to continue its good offices to bring the two sides together for a negotiated peaceful settlement. The Sri Lankan defense secretary, General Sepala Attygalle, was present at the meeting.

Gandhi Hosts Dinner for Visiting SWAPO Leader

BK230408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] India and the Southwest Africa People's Organization [SWAPO] have reaffirmed their resolve to bring about the independence of Namibia and end apartheid in South Africa. This emerged at a dinner hosted by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in honor of the visiting SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, in New Delhi last night.

Mr Gandhi pledged India's continued moral and material support to the liberation struggle in Namibia. He said the Frontline African States need help because of outside interference in their internal affairs. He rejected the idea of linking Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The prime minister supported the rights of the Frontline States to provide sanctaury to SWAPO and Namibian Freedom Fighters and said these cannot be abrogated. He pointed out that it is not enough to condemn the racist Pretoria regime raids on the Frontline States without recognizing the linkage between racism in South Africa and its (?depredations) abroad.

Mr Sam Nujoma said that his organization will not rest until Namibia is freed. He criticized the United States for its involvement inthe conflict in South Africa and openly collaborating with the Botha regime. Mr Nujoma thanked Mr Gandhi for his support to the liberation struggle in southern Africa and described Mr Gandhi's last week's visit to some Frontline States as timely.

Gandhi Reviews Punjab Situation With Minister

BK261559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister reviewed the Punjab situation with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today. Mr Buta Singh, who is back in New Delhi after a tour of some areas of Punjab, including Ludhiana and Amritsar, gave a firsthand assessment of the situation. He emphasized the need for measures to ensure safety for life and property of the people, particularly of the minorities in rural areas.

Punjab Official Reportedly Shot in Vancouver

BK260927 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] A UNI [United News of India] message just received says that the planning minister of Punjab, Mr (Maltiab) Singh, was shot at and wounded at Vancouver in Canada yesterday. According to an official report received in Chandigarh, Mr (Maltiab) Singh was on a private visit to Vancouver. Soon after the accident he was immediately taken to a hospital for an emergency operation. He has been declared out of danger. Reports said five persons have been arrested.

Punjab Strike Protests Terrorist Killings

BK231607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] In Punjab, a bundh [strike] was observed today in Amritsar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, and Jullunder districts in protest against the killing of 11 persons by terrorists in the Krishnanagar area of Amritsar on Wednesday. In Amritsar and Kapurthala districts, most of the shops remained closed while in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur some shops remained closed during the first half of the day. The call for the bundh was given by some religious and political organizations.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, except in Amritsar, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in the state. In Amritsar, eight persons have been injured in stabbing incidents since last night. One police constable received burns when some persons threw acid on him. The Punjab Government has posted two deputy inspectors general of police in the border districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur to coordinate and supervise the efforts of the police and paramilitary forces to maintain law and order and curb terrorist activities.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the deployment of forces has been reorganized and made more effective all over the state, especially in the border districts. He said additional vehicles and wireless sets have been provided to the forces to make them more mobile. Mr Barnala said special care in this regard has been taken of Amritsar, Batala, Tarn Taran, and other sensitive areas. The chief minister said those indulging in terrorist activities are the enemies of humanity. The killing of innocent persons is a heinous crime.

PRC's Fu Hao Continues Visit, Received by Zia

BK221142 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his confidence that sincere friendship and mutual cooperation between Pakistan and China will be further consolidated in the years to come. He expressed the confidence in reply to the messages of the Chinese leaders which were conveyed to him by the visiting leader of the 6-member Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Fu Hao, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential house] in Islamabad today. The president expressed best wishes to the government and people of China for the continued progress and prosperity of that country.

Mr Fu Hao conveyed to the president special greetings and good wishes of the Chinese leaders, including the chairman and the secretary general of the Chinese Communist Party and the president and the prime minister of China. He also expressed supreme satisfaction over the development of friendly relations and close cooperation between the two countries over the last 35 years.

Delegation Leaves 27 May

BK270707 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The 7-member Chinese good-will delegation led by Fu Hao, member of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, left Karachi for Beijing this morning after a week-long visit to Pakistan.

Government Protests Afghan Cross-Border Attacks

BK251535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] The Kabul regime's aircraft violated Pakistani airspace on Wednesday [21 May] near Parachinar in Khurram Agency and dropped 40-50 bombs on frontier constabulary posts at (Shadal Tal) and Bala Hissar, causing damage to the posts. The same day, the Kabul regime's armed forces also intensively shelled (Utsar), (Shadal Tal), (Duwa Kotal), and Bala Hissar.

The Kabul administration's forces also fired artillery shells in the Naupash area near Nawagai in Mehmand Agency on Friday.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office, and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Yaqub Khan on Geneva Talks, Afghan Violations

BK261104 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said he is satisfied with the progress so far made at the indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. He was talking to newsmen on his return to Islamabad this morning from Geneva where he represented Pakistan at the proximity talks. The foreign minister said the text of instrument form which brings together all the components of the political settlement in an integrated package has matured to a considerable extent. An agreement has been reached on some of the important principles, including the legally binding status of the instrument.

Some of the major issues, including the timeframe for withdrawal of Soviet troops are yet to be negotiated which he hoped would be resolved in future.

The foreign minister thanked the UN secretary general and his personal representative for advancing the negotiations on the Afghanistan problem and promoting a just settlement. He said Pakistan wanted to see an early end to the massive suffering inflicted upon the Afghan following the led intervention in Afghanistan. However, in the search for an honorable and realistic settlement of the Afghanistan problem Pakistan cannot be daunted by threats to its security as manifested in the recent violations of its airspace and territory from the Afghanistan side. Pakistan has demonstrated its capability to defend its frontiers and no threat or pressure could diminish its determination to seek a just settlement consistent with principles.

UN's Cordovez on Talks

BK240243 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] The seventh round of the indirect talks on Afghanistan was adjorned in Geneva today and is to be reconvened on the 30th of July next. This was announced by the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, at a news conference in Geneva today to mark the conclusion of the 3 weeks of talks. He said that both sides wanted to return to their capitals at this stage so as to consult their principals before resuming the discussion. He said the two sides remained absolutely determined to continue the negotiations. Mr Cordovez said that the two interlocutors were of the view that substantial progress had been achieved in delineating elements and the structure of the fourth instrument of the settlement package which mainly dealt with the interrelationship between the assurances of noninterference and nonintervention and the withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Mr Cordovez said that discussions this time have centered around substantive questions only and not on matters of procedural nature as in the past. A number of very important issues in the fourth component of the settlement have been settled during the negotiations in a mutually satisfactory manner. However, Mr Cordovez said two key issues including one relating to the timeframe for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan had not been resolved. He said there was a wide gap in perceptions on these two issues, but it could be narrowed down depending on an atmosphere in which the negotiations were taking place. He said the atmosphere during the past 3 weeks had remained good and constructive. Mr Cordovez expressed his disappointment at the slow pace at which the talks had moved. In a way, he said, the negotiations had to be slow because the talks had reached a very crucial stage and both sides were being

very cautious. The fact it was essential that whatever they approve should be well-considered documents so that it would lead to a comprehensive settlement and could be effectively implemented [sentence as heard].

Mr Cordovez said that considering the fact that it took the two interlocutors almost 4 years to work the first three instruments dealing with the questions of noninterference and nonintervention, declaration of international guarantees, and providing for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees, the progress during the current negotiations have been quite satisfactory. He said agreement on only two paragraphs of the fourth instrument now remained to be reached. One of the important issues which had been settled during the past few days related to the legal status of the projected agreement.

Mr Cordovez said that the question relating to the timeframe for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan would definitely be discussed because there was an agreement worked out during the previous rounds establishing the interrelationship of this question with the rest of the settlement package. He said the adjournment of the discussion could be helpful and he felt that it could enable the negotiators to build up the broad political support which was essential for an ultimate settlement. Mr Cordovez said everything mentioned in the draft fourth instrument including the question of the timeframe for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops had been discussed during the negotiations. Both the sides had their own perceptions of this key issue, although it was generally felt that a discussion on the timeframe should be (?deferred) till the formulation of the fourth instrument of the settlement.

Mr Cordovez said that the wide gap on the question of timeframe, notwithstanding, it was a good sign that the two sides were moving toward the same direction in a serious search for the solution of this problem. APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] says Mr Cordovez declined to elaborate on the other key issue dividing the two sides although it was generally regarded as one concerning the question of establishing a mechanism of the United Nations supervision for the implementation of the projected agreement.

Assembly Votes To Remove Speaker From Position

BK261026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The National Assembly began its session at the State Bank building in Islamabad this morning with the deputy speaker, Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, in the chair. The newly elected member from Bannu, Mr Mauladad Khan, was administered oath by the deputy speaker. A panel of chairmen to preside over the assembly sitting was announced. They are: Brigadier, retired, Mohammad Aslam, Mr Gauhar Ayyub Khan, Shahzada Jam Mohammad Yusuf, and Agha Ata Mohammad Khan.

The order of the day contained only one item on the agenda relating to five identical motions seeking leave of the House for resolutions expressing no confidence in the speaker, Syed Fakhr Imam. The assembly granted leave to Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan to move a resolution for the removal of Syed Fakhr Imam from the office of the speaker. When put to vote, 148 members stood up from their seats supporting the resolution. Moving the resolution, Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan said the speaker had not been impartial and he used the House for promoting himself instead of the prestige of the House. Mian Mohammad Zaman said the speaker failed to promote parliamentary and democratic traditions. The session continues.

Vote Supported by Junejo

BK270238 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The National Assembly removed Syed Fakhr Imam from the office of speaker last night by passing a no-confidence motion against him by 152 votes. Giving the details of the voting, Deputy Speaker Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai said 72 votes were cast against the resolution while 3 votes were rendered invalid.

Talking briefly to newsmen, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said that the action taken to remove the speaker from his post is fully in line with the law and forms part of the democratic process. He said that voting a speaker out of office is a normal procedure anywhere and is not exclusive to Pakistan. Defending the presidential ordinance regarding the amendment in the Political Parties Act, the prime minister said it is a normal action. Mohammad Khan Junejo said he firmly believes in the supremacy of the law, the Constitution, and democratic values, and will uphold them at all costs.

SRI LANKA

Troops To Halt Operations if Militants Stop Violence

BK240722 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 24 May 86

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, May 24 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has said it will immediately halt military operations against Tamil separatists — if the militants stp using violence, well-informed sources said here Saturday.

President Junius Jayewardene outlined the Sri Lankan position when he met Indian Envoy Jyotindra Nath Dixit here Thursday, the sources said.

He said he would immediately halt military operations against Tamil militants campaigning for an independent state in the north and east of the island if they stopped their violence, the sources said.

But he stressed that the government could not stop military operations as long as the militants continued their attacks, the sources added.

Mr. Jayewardene also said that Sri Lanka wanted India to continue its mediation efforts to find a political solution to the country's ethnic crisis, Mr Dixit told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said he had told Mr. Jayewardene that military operations must be stopped if there was to be a peaceful resolution of the Tamil problem.

The Colombo sources said that Mr. Dixit told the Sri Lankan president that unless military operations were halted, New Delhi's offer to help search for a political solution to the Tamil question would be jeopardised.

The Indian envoy declined to reveal Friday whether India was prepared to abandon its role as mediator if the Sri Lankan Government continued to carry out military operations.

Fighting between Tamil militants and Sri Lankan troops described by local residents as a major military offensive has left 37 people dead in the past week, according to official figures.

The government has said it was not carrying out an offensive but a regular troop rotation which was now under way.

India, which has a Tamil population of more than 50 million, has been acting as a mediator between the government and the minority Tamil population on the Sinhala-dominated island.

Sri Lanka is annoyed by what it perceived as India's "partiality and one-sidedness" on the Tamil question and the genuineness of its "good offices" is being seriously questioned here, authoritative sources said.

"India wants the government to halt military activities but it does not ask the terrorists who are living in southern India to stop their acts of violence. So how can India's role of mediator be taken seriously," a prominent politician who declined to be identified asked Saturday.

Mr. Jayewardene also briefed Mr. Dixit on acts of violence committed by militants this month, including the bombing of an Air Lanka jetliner at Colombo's international airport and a blast at a central telegraph office in Colombo, the sources said. More than 30 people died in the bombings.

Three people were killed and three wounded early Saturday in an attack by Tamil militants on a village near Kalkudah, in eastern Batticaloa District, security sources said.

Armed militants arrived at the village and opened fire, the sources said, adding that they could not provide further details.

In an attack Friday, six Sinhla villagers were killed and seven wounded when armed militants attacked two villages near Seruwila, in Trincomalee District, well-informed sources said.

Some of the villagers were about to leave for a Buddhist temple for prayers during Friday's Buddhist holiday when they were attacked, the sources said.

Official sources confirmed the attack but could not give details immediately.

Government Informs India

BK250343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has conveyed to India that Colombo will halt military operations in the troubled areas of the island only if the militants stop their attacks. The Sri Lanka position was conveyed to the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, when he met President Jayewardene early this week to convey India's concern over the military operations in the Jaffna peninsula. India has told Sri Lanka that if the military operations did not stop its offer of good offices to help bring about a political settlement to the ethnic issue will be jeopardized. Mr Jayewardene is also reported to have told the Indian envoy that Colombo will convey further elaborations on the recent proposals for provincial autonomy if there is an absolute guarantee that the Tamil groups will not seek further clarifications.

Meanwhile, the death toll in yesterday's attack on some villages in Trincomalee District by the militants has risen to 12.

Reportage on Reaction to Thatcher Visit to Israel

Musavi: Visit 'Confrontation'

GF260528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 86

[Excerpt] The Iranian Cabinet held a meeting yesterday. At the meeting, Prime minister Mir Hoseyni Musavi commented on Mrs Thatcher's visit to occupied Palestine. He noted that it was a direct British confrontation with the Islamic world and said the United Kingdom had played a major role in helping the Zionists capture this part of Islamic territory. The present visit, he said, is in fact an open British confrontation with all Muslims.

IRNA Reports Further

LD251912 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its Sunday meet criticized the visit of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to the occupied Palestine as a head-on challenge to the Muslim world.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who presided over the cabinet session said that the British Government has played the biggest role in the occupation of this part of Islamic world (palestine) by the Zionist regime.

"Thatcher's visit is in fact a clear declaration of enmity with the world of Islam", Musavi said.

Meanwhile the minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust who was present at the session presented a report on the latest developments in the warfronts.

The IRGC minister said that 2,000 Iraqi soldiers have been killed in four operational regions in the battlefronts recently. He added the figure does not include the toll of non-Iraqi soldiers fighting alongside the Iraqi troops.

'Human Rights' Statement Scored

GF260940 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] On the prime minister's denunciation of Thatcher's visit to occupied Palestine, *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* carries the following report: Prime Minister Engineer Mir Hoseyn Musavi denounced the current visit being paid by the British prime minister to occupied Palestine. He regarded this a flagrant challenge to the Islamic world. He added that Britain was foremost among those contributing to ensure the Zionist occupation of Palestine and separate it from the corpus of the Islamic state. This visit is actually a declaration of flagrant animosity toward all Muslims in the Islamic world.

The paper continues its comment on Thatcher's visit to occupied Palestine by saying: What is ridiculous is that on the eve of Thatcher's visit to occupied Palestine, she said that she believes in the issue of human rights and that Israel holds this same belief. Thatcher's remarks imply that during her visit to occupied Palestine and entering this land — where not a single inch has not been stained by the blood of martyrs who have fallen in defense of their land, honor, and Islam — she wants to defend human rights through providing aid to the Zionist ally. This very defense of human rights is done in accordance with the British-Zionist method. It is not strange that today we see the same people who, in association with the Zionists, usurped Palestine claim they are defending human rights.

Mo'ayeri Returns From France, Comments on Talks

LD232155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Mo'ayeri, who had gone to France at the head of a delegation for talks with French officials aimed at settling bilateral problems, returned to Tehran this evening. During a brief interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad airport, he said:

My visit follows the coming to power of Jacques Chirac's government and his expression of a desire for the noralization of relations between the two countries, which manifested itself in the visit of our country by two French missions.

In the course of our meetings with the officials of that country, three fundamental conditions raised by the Islamic Republic of Iran were discussed. They were: neutrality regarding the imposed war launched by the Zionist regime of Saddam Husayn; unconditional repayment of the loan owed to Iran; and French restraint from supporting the terrorists and the fugitive counter-revolutionaries. The practical ways of settling these problems were subsequently discussed.

He then added: French officials then made certain promises on these matters. We hope to see the realization of these promises in the near future.

Briefs President, Majlis Speaker

LD251801 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri on Sunday met President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani separately and presented each a report on his visit to Paris last week.

In Paris Mo'ayeri held talks with senior French Government officials among them President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac with whom he discussed topics on normalization of Iran-France relations.

Iran's conditions for normalizing relations with Paris include France's repayment of an outstanding one-billion-dollar loan, French neutrality in the Iraq-Iran war and an end to its support of Iranian counterrevolutionaries and emigre groups in France.

Opposition Says U.S. Monitoring USSR From Iran

LD261027 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0802 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Kuwait, 26 may (KUNA) — *AL-WATAN* cites Iranian opposition sources in Paris as saying that the United States under a special agreement with the Iranian regime, resumed the operation of electronic intelligence stations inside Iran today in exchange for selling and providing the Iranian Army with modern weapons and spare parts for U.S. weapons used by this army.

A statement by these sources published in *AL-WATAN* here today, said that these stations were closed down and the American experts left after the downfall of the Shah's regime in 1979. Ever since then, the sources added, Americans have tried to find new areas to operate these stations either from Iran or other countries such as Pakistan or Turkey. However, by the beginning of this year, a new agreement was reached over long negotiations between the Iranian regime and a delegation whereby both sides agreed to reopen these stations.

The Iranian opposition states in its message, that the new agreement stipulates that the Americans are commited to provide the Iranian Army with modern weapons and spare parts for the American weapons this army uses, and that consignments of the American weapons have started to arrive to Iran through Pakistan.

The sources added that the agreement also stipulates that Washington provide Tehran with some of the information collected by these intelligence stations, particularly in regard to the Iraqi forces and their movements — which will be utilized by the Iranian Army in its military operations on the battle fronts.

The opposition sources asserted that Israeli experts carrying U.S. passports arrived in Iran in a move to extend these stations' intelligence operations to include other areas adjacent to the Soviet Union's territories, bearing in mind that the previous stations during the Shah's rule were directed to gather intelligence on the Soviet territories.

The paper states that the Americans concluded a secret agreement with the Pakistani Government to set up new intelligence monitoring stations at "(Qadir)" area in Baluchistan close to the Iranian borders.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2479

LD231920 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 23, IRNA — A military communique released here Friday by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that on Thursday one Iraqi helicopter had been downed in the western fronts.

The Communique Number 2479 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said also that 17 heavy vehicles and nine command vehicles, one engineering vehicle and four Iraqi tanks head been wrecked by the Iranian forces in the various parts of the battlefronts Friday.

Iran's fighter bombers on Friday pounded concentration centers of the Iraqi Armed Forces in Rawanduz at 36:30 degrees north and 44.45 degrees east and safely returned to their bases.

The Communique Number 2479 of the Joint Staff said that at 02.30 hours Thursday Iraqi infantrymen tried to infiltrate Iranian positions near the Kadoud Heights but that they were repelled as they sustained heavy casualties. Elsewhere in Sar Dasht Iran's Muslim forces chased away Iraqi patrol troops Thursday, and inflicted heavy casualties on them.

The Iranian forces on Thursday liberated Heights Number 345, 330 and 310 near Mehran inside the Iraqi territory in the wake of heavy fighting with the Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile on Thursday the Iranian cities of Piranshah and Abadan were sporadically shelled from across the border by the Iraqi artillery.

Correspondents on Mehran Fighting

LD231210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 86

[Excerpts] We draw your attention to a report from a Central News Unit correspondent on the continuing battles of the Islamic warriors with the Zionist enemy forces in Mehran operational zone:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The proud battles of the forces of monotheism in Mehran operational areas against the heathen forces of Saddam, still continue. Islam's combatants have checked any moves by the aggressor Ba'thists with heavy and light weapons fire.

According to reports by the Central News Unit correspondents despatched to the operational areas of Mehran, from the early hours of this morning until 1130, the artillery fire of the mighty forces of monotheism destroyed 8 tanks of the Saddamists and killed or injured more than 300 mercenaries. Furthermore, two large ammunition dumps in the frontier areas of Mehran were set ablaze.

Following the bombing of positions and fortifications of the aggressor Saddamists in the Mehran frontier areas by the valiant pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Forces, 3 guns from an artillery battalion stationed in (?Ghar Bayta) were destroyed and its ammunition pile nearby was set ablaze, detonating nearly 2,000 shells.

Iraqi Vessels Repelled, 1 Sunk

LD231716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 86

[Text] A report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' says:
Concurrent with the victories achieved by the Islamic troops on the various fronts, particularly in Fakkeh and Hajj 'Umran sectors, naval units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps last night succeeded in stopping several Iraqi vessels that were trying to approach the Islamic forces' positions in the waters of 'Val-

Fajr-8' operational theater. As a result heavy casualties were inflicted on them. In the course of this confrontation one Iraqi vessel was hit by the coastal fire of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Khawr 'Abdallah waters and subsequently broke into pieces.

Communique No 2480

LD241727 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants shot down an Iraqi warplane in Hajj 'Umran Friday, according to a military communique here Saturday.

The Communique Number 2480 released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that clashes and close combat continued on Height 2435 in Hajj 'Umran Friday in the wake of which a large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed their bodies lying scattered in the battlefields.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in the western fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran and Meymak in which Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and lost two tanks and a machine-gun of theirs in Mehran, the communique says.

The Joint Staff says that two Iraqi patrol units trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in Meymak and Kalleh-Kandi height in Sumar early Friday were shelled and forced to flee by Muslim forces of Iran.

In the southern fronts and especially in Sharhani and Zubeydat artillery duels continued a result of which Iraqi troops incurred casualties and losses. Iranian Muslim forces also shelled oil installations of Iraqi township of Banmil Friday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on Abadan, Khuzestan Province Friday damaged several houses, shops and one mosque.

Iraqi Warplanes Bomb Piranshah

LD240917 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 24 May 86

[Text] Piranshah, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 24, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed the West Azarbayjan city of Piranshah and its nearby villages five times Friday and Saturday.

One civilian was martyred and a number of others were injured in these raids. A number of houses were also destroyed.

Communique No 2481

LD251630 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters pounded a concentration center of Iraqi troops in the Iraqi city of Rawanduz at 36.33 North and 44.49 East coordinates, at 02:51 hours GMT Sunday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them. The fighters after successfully carrying out their mission safely returned to their bases, according to a military communique here Sunday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2481 says that Iraqi war planes dropped chemical bombs over Mehran and Salehabad operational regions at 06:45 hours (03:15 hours GMT) Sunday.

Sporadic fighting continued in the northwestern fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Haj 'Umran where heavy artillery and mortar fire were exchanged, the communique says.

The communique says that Iranian Muslim combatants pounded Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts and prevented enemy helicopters from transporting reinforcements and equipment in (Kelaleh). Two military bases and two munition dumps of Iraqi forces were set ablaze and destroyed in these fronts.

In the western fronts, the communique says, exchange of artillery fire continued sporadically. In Mehran, Muslim forces of Iran opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions checking all enemy operations. They also inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi forces in areas behind Zaluab.

Several Iraqi gun emplacements were demolished and two enemy trucks set ablaze in the western fronts Saturday, says the communique, adding that oil installations in Iraqi township of Banmil were shelled by Iranian artillery fire Saturday and Sunday.

Muslim forces of Iran, the communique says, checked Iraqi engineering operations in Sumar and supply as well as transport operations of enemy motorized units in Helaleh and Kani-Sheykh Saturday and Sunday.

Elsewhere the communique says that sporadic artillery duels continued in the southern fronts Saturday as a result of which Iraqi forces incurred heavy casualties and losses.

In Nahr-Anbar, Chazabeh and Zobeydah, movements of Iraqi armoured and motorized units were checked on Saturday and Sunday, says the Joint Staff Communique.

The military communique says that Iraqi artillery fire hit the city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, and villages in the outskirts of Piranshahr, West Azarbaijan Province, Saturday inflicting casualties and damage on villagers.

Further on Iraqi Chemical Weapons

LD251051 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Mehran, May 25, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes hit Mehran and Salehabad operational theater in west of Iran with chemical bombs twice Sunday morning.

During the attack a number of Islamic Forces of Iran were martyred or wounded but the casualty is not high since the Iranian Forces were equipped with anti-chemical gas masks.

This is the first time Iraq uses chemical weapons against Mehran operational theater. The United Nations has officially condemned the Baghdad regime for its deployment of chemical weapons.

Iraqi Troops in Rawanduz Bombed

LD250554 Tehran IRNA in English 0549 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers hit troop concentration centers of Iraqi forces in Rawanduz, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province northwest of Iraq, Sunday morning.

A Joint Staff communique released here said that the bombing was carried out at 06:21 local time (02:51 GMT) and hit an area with 36.33 degrees north and 44.49 degree east coordinates.

The fighter-bombers, after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the Iraqi forces, returned safely to their bases, the communique added.

Jets Bomb Iraqi Power Station

LD251744 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed a power station and other energy installations in the Iraqi city of (Darbandi-Khan) at 35.06 North and 45.42 East coordinates, at 13:25 hours (09:55 hours GMT) Sunday.

Earlier Sunday morning, Iranian fighter bombers had pounded a concentration center of Iraqi troops in Rawanduz at 36:33 North and 44:49 coordinates, [as received] at 02:51 hours GMT.

The fighters after successfully carrying out their missions safely returned to their bases.

Iraqi 25 May Raid Claim Denied

LD261111 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) spokesman here Monday categorically denied the Iraqi regime's claims alleging Iran of having attacked several Iraqi cities and townships on Sunday.

The Iraqi Armed Forces command in its Communique 2239 Sunday had alleged that residential areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province were hit by the Iranian planes and 12 people were injured in the raid. Furthermore it had claimed that outskirts of the Iraqi city of Khanaqin, Biyarah and Khourmal were under fire of the Iranian long-range artillery.

The Iranian planes, the WIH spokesman added, on Sunday only raided the Iraqi troop concentration centers in Sulaymaniyah Province and a power station in Darbandikhan of Kirkuk Province. The Iraqi claim is totally unfounded and the Iranian planes had attacked no civilian areas on Sunday, the WIH spokesman said.

Communique No 2,482

LD261729 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed a concentration center of Iraqi armoured units and an enemy command headquarters near the Iraqi road of Kumayt, north of Basra, at 32.05 North and 46.55 East coordinates, at 0605 hours GMT Monday, said a military communique here Monday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2482 said that the Iranian fighters after successfully carrying out their mission and inflicting substantial losses and casualties on Iraqi forces returned to their bases safely.

An Iraqi missile-launching cruiser trying to break the siege of Iranian naval units in Khawr 'Abdallah early Monday was attacked and forced to flee after sustaining heavy casualties and losses by Iranian naval forces, the communique said.

The military communique said that an Iraqi fighter bomber trying to bombard Iranian positions in Sharhani, southern fronts, was shot down by anti-Aircraft fire of Iranian Muslim combatants at 10:00 hours GMT Monday.

In artillery duels in northwestern fronts Sunday, five tanks and personnel carriers and one munitions dump of Iraqi forces were destroyed, movements of their vehicles halted and 35 Iraqi soldiers captured, according to the communique.

In northwestern fronts, the communique said, exchange of artillery fire continued, raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran. In Sumar, Muslim forces of Iran silenced Iraqi tank fire and forced an enemy patrol unit trying to infiltrate their positions to flee.

Elsewhere the communique said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued in the southern fronts raging more intensly in Sharhani, in Majnun Islands and Hoseyniyeh as a result of which Iraqi forces incurred considerable casualties and damage.

Artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants hit and repelled two Iraqi patrol units in Nahr-Anbar Saturday, said the Joint Staff.

Iranian Muslim combatants, the communique said, checked Iraqi armoured units in Kani-Sheykh and Helaleh on Sunday and Monday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire on Abadan, Khuzestan Province, Sunday damaged several houses and shops Monday. [as received]

Fighter Downed, Crew Captured

GF261124 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1112 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Dear listeners, I have just received the following news item: The joint staff has announced that our antiaircraft fire this morning downed an Iraqi fighter in the region of Sharhani operations zone. The two pilots of the fighter were captured.

Bombing Raid, Naval Battle Reported

LD261102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that at 0935 local time this morning several air force fighter-bombers bombed the enemy troop concentration and armored forces and command headquarters near the Al-Kumayt road. The coordinates of the bombed area of 32.5 North and 46.55 East. Having inflicted considerable damage on Iraqi forces, the fighter-bombers returned to their bases safely.

Early this morning, one Iraqi rocket-launcher gunboat tried to break the naval siege in (Khwar 'Abdullah) but was hit by Islamic Republic naval units. Having suffered major damage, the gunboat was forced to flee.

WIH Denies Iraqi Claims on Faqqeh

LD260735 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 26 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters here Monday refuted recent Iraqi claims to the effect that there had been no clash between the Islamic forces of Iran and the Iraqi troops in Fakkeh region.

He referred to the denial of the Iraqi regime as absurd and said that in the past too the Iraqi regime had resorted to such baseless claims including its denial on the liberation of Al-Faw by the Islamic forces of Iran.

He added that foreign correspondents in Iran are welcomed to visit Faqqeh and see for themselves the signs of the defeat of the Iraqi forces.

Fighters Hit Iraqi Power Installations

GF270508 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] The joint staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces has announced that at 0526 [0154 GMT] this morning the brave pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran's air force bombed electricity installations in Iraq's Dukan region with their fighter bombers. After delivering heavy damage to these installations, they all returned safely to their bases.

'Val Fajr-8' Operations

LD271102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 86

[Text] Reports from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, indicate that the combatants of the IRGC Ground Force launched a series of successful operations in the 'Val Fajr-8' operational area at 2300 last night. Our forces attacked enemy positions situated on al-Faw-Al-Bihar axis and completely annihilated the first battalion from the 701st Brigade of the Iraqi Armed Forces. In this operation, hundreds of the Zionist Iraqi regime's forces were killed or wounded, large amounts of their equipment were destroyed and a considerable quantity of heavy and light equipment was captured by the forces of Islam as booty. In last night's operations, 20 soldiers from the Zionist enemy's forces were captured by the combatants of Islam. This report says that several officers and NCO's from Iraq's 701st Brigade were among those killed or captured in last night's operations.